

April 9, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch
Food & Drug Administration
Dept. of Health & Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an animal lover, but never before have considered myself an animal rights activist. However, I recently read about the plight of hens used in the U.S. egg industry. I am appalled that these birds – millions of them -- are deliberately deprived of all food for up to 14 days in order to increase their egg production. As if this cruel starvation weren't enough on its own, I understand it also predisposes the birds and their eggs to Salmonella infection.

While the plight of helpless animals might not be of primary concern to the U.S. government, surely the public health implication of widespread Salmonella infection among our human population is enough to stop this horrific practice?

Please grant the petition, filed under docket #98P-0202/CP, that will eliminate this practice.

Sincerely,



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